



Truman VA BULLETIN

Take Note:

- Health Benefits
Open Season runs
November 10 thru
December 8.
- Many administrative
Business offices have
been relocated off-
site. However,
phone numbers pre-
viously assigned to
those employees
will still work.
- Employee Flu Shots
are available now.

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Volume 2008, Issue 25

OPEN SEASON FOR BENEFIT CHANGES

Nov. 10 through Dec. 8 is open season for employees to make changes to their health, dental or vision insurance. Also, this is the time to sign up for or make changes in your flex spending account. Changes for health insurance can be made by accessing

www.employeeexpress.gov.

Changes for flex spending can be made by accessing

www.fsafeds.com

and changes for dental and vision insurance can be made by accessing

www.benefeds.com.

The 2008 Health Insurance Fair is scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20 in the auditorium. For more information, contact **Anna Kahle** (HR) at extension 56399.

Open
Season

2008 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Congratulations to this year's local CFC co-chairs, **Paul Kurzejeski** and **Holly Shryock** and to all Truman VA employees that participated in the campaign. Thank you for your generosity in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign, which began Oct. 6 and ran

through Nov. 7. We achieved a wonderful success - \$46,092 in pledges and gifts, which is 132 percent of the hospital goal. These voluntary contributions will play an integral part in the lives of hundreds of people throughout our community. In this time of eco-

nomie struggle, the needs have only increased and your CFC contributions can and will make a difference. Thanks again for your generous support.



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AN ELECTION DAY STORY

Nationwide, the Department of Veterans Affairs emphasized and encouraged local efforts to provide voter registration information and to assist with absentee ballots to assure that veterans were not disenfranchised for the November election. Locally, these efforts were spearheaded by **Nathan Witt**, Chief, Voluntary Service, and **Kimberly Scott**, Community Living Center social worker. A non-partisan student group from MU staffed an information booth and visited Community Living Center (ward 3 East) patients in early October. Several veterans signed up to receive absentee ballots for the Nov. 4 election. The nationwide effort assured a

more uniform approach for helping VA patients that needed assistance to register and vote including veterans at Truman VA.

On Election Day, Voluntary Service was contacted by social worker **Melissa Vansteenburgh** who reported that there was a veteran on the surgical inpatient unit hoping to cast a ballot. The patient had fallen two days earlier and was not able to leave the hospital in order to vote. He was from the Boonville, Mo. area so the Cooper County Clerk's office was contacted to determine what needed to be done to ensure that this veteran could vote. The County Clerk advised that two people – each representing the

two major political parties – would need to bring a ballot to the hospital so that the veteran could vote and then return the completed ballot to Boonville before the 7:00 p.m. closing of the polls. Two VA volunteers – **Chris Clemens** and **Bob Herrick** – were quick to assist. They made the approximately 120-mile road trip (30 miles each way) and the veteran was able to cast his ballot. Unfortunately, the patient's condition worsened that evening and he died the following morning. This event, though sad, speaks to the importance of the processes that were put in place to ensure that veterans were informed and able to exercise their voting privileges.

TRUMAN VA VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

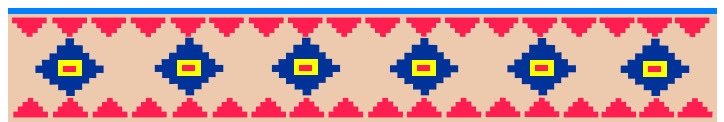
Eight Columbia Public School District students are winners of the annual Veterans Day essay contest sponsored by Truman VA. Open to junior and senior high students in the Columbia district, entries were reviewed by a language arts teacher at each student's school prior to submission. Two staff members, **Karen Wheeler** and **Barb Michael**, served as judges and determined winning essays in the junior and senior high divisions. Cash prizes from donated funds were awarded to the winners. The winning au-

thors were recognized at the Veterans Day ceremony at the hospital on Nov. 11. Junior high division winners are **Nomin-Erdene Jagdagdorj** (first place); **Annemarie Van Doren** (second place); **James Dolezal** (third place) and **Makenzie Skrabal** (honorable mention). All four attend West Junior High School. Senior high division winners include **Alan Hatfield**, Rock Bridge High School (first place); **Laura Matera**, Rock Bridge High School (second place); **Chrissy Meador**, Hickman High

School (third place) and **Kristen Blair**, Rock Bridge High School (honorable mention). The winning essays will be placed on the hospital's Internet Web site in the near future.

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

In celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month, all employees are invited to a brown bag lunch presentation sponsored by the EEO Committee. "Native America: Diversity Within Diversity" is a 12-minute film that follows a Native American Indian registered nurse that comes from a diverse background as he encounters various Native American Indian veterans, community members and other stakeholders. The film will be shown at 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon in room E-111 on Monday, Nov. 17 and Tuesday, Nov. 25. There will also be a display of American Indian artifacts donated by **Ray Two Feathers**, a Truman VA volunteer. Finally, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, the Veterans Canteen Service will feature a special menu item in the food court that will include corn casserole, Navajo fry bread, buttered acorn squash and a medium fountain drink for \$5.



IHI's National Forum On Quality Improvement in Healthcare

VA KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

the future of healthcare is ours to

imagine

**WE'VE RESERVED A FRONT ROW
SEAT JUST FOR YOU VIA SATELLITE!**

As part of our ongoing effort to accelerate health care improvement throughout the world, IHI will be transmitting a live satellite broadcast of the four National Forum keynote and five mini keynote presentations on December 10 and 11. The benefits of the satellite include reduced costs and travel time with increased visibility of a world-class event throughout your organization. The broadcast is available in English only.

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP

President and CEO,
Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Susan Dentzer

Editor-In-Chief,
Health Affairs

John A. Kitshaber, MD

Director,
Center for Evidence-Based Policy

Robert Brustein

Renowned Playwright

where Just go to <http://vawww.columbia-mo.med.va.gov/VKN.htm> and select Channel 3.

when December 10 & 11... Sessions broadcast all day long beginning at 8:00 am

Limited seating available in room A-308.

OI&T CORNER: NEW TOOLS!

The screenshot shows the CPRS interface. At the top is a menu bar with 'View', 'Action', 'Tools', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a list of options: 'Chart Tab', 'Information', 'Details...', and 'Administration History...'. A yellow notification box with a blue border is overlaid on the 'View' menu, containing the text: 'There is a new tool in CPRS Version 27! From the MEDS tab, click on **VIEW**.' Below the notification box, there is a section for sorting options, starting with a checked box for 'Sort by Status/Exp. Date (IMO first on Inpt)', followed by 'Sort by Status Group/Status/Location/Drug Name' and 'Sort by Drug (alphabetically), status active, status recent expired'.

Lock your computer by pressing the Windows Logo key + L

Microsoft classes are available as follows:

Second Friday at 1:00 p.m. for Word

Second Friday at 2:00 p.m. for Outlook

Third Friday at 1:00 p.m. for Excel

Third Friday at 2:00 p.m. for PowerPoint

VistA Mailman class is offered the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Call the OI&T Help Desk at 56500 to register for these classes..

December Microsoft classes will be canceled so instructors can develop curriculum and handouts for Intermediate Excel and Word classes to be offered in February 2009.



Department of Veteran
Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000

WELCOME

- Kathleen Boyd, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)
- Mary Ann Chandler**, Program Support Assistant (SC)
- Robert Cundiff**, Teller (FIN)
- Jacquelyne Fiesler**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
- Peggy Gaines**, Medical Support Assistant (PS)
- Kevin Gunter, MD**, Staff Orthopedic Surgeon (SC)
- Christopher Manuel, PhD**, Res. Health Scientist (RES)
- Gregory McMillan**, Police Officer (Police)
- Mary Stilwell**, Program Support Assistant (Research)
- Lauren Swift**, Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (PC)
- Janet Wyrick**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
- Nanette Zomes**, Medical Instrument Technician (SC)

FAREWELL

- Leslie Berry**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
- Melvin Gibson**, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
- Margaret Irvin**, Claims Assistant (FIN)
- Nida Palmer**, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
- Maureen Peters, RNP**, Nurse Practitioner (PC)
- Randal Rehling, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)
- John Victor**, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)

Odds and Ends

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD
DRIVE – FRIDAY, NOV. 28

On Friday, Nov. 28, the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium. This is an additional blood drive that was organized because of the pressing need for blood over the holiday week-end. The goal for this "mini-blood drive" is 20 units. All donors will receive a limited edition cooking apron inspired by **Paula Deen** (The Food Network).

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Michelle Tourville (PS), **Corrine Floyd, RN** (PS), and **Amber Young**, (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

ADVICE/RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING QUEUING PRINT JOBS

Queue reports to print during off-tours:

Monday through Thursday after 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the next morning;

Friday through Sunday after 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 6:00 a.m. Monday.

Queue reports to print one hour apart. Never queue a group of reports to run at the same time. Always queue each report at a unique start time:

First report:
T@1700 (T = Today)

Second report:
T@1800

Third report:
T@1900

Reports can be queued in advance, for example:

T+1@0400 (T+1 = tomorrow)

T+2@1830 (T+2 = day after tomorrow)

110708@1900

If you have questions, contact the OI&T Help Desk at extension 56500.